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Celebrity Buzz

Uma single again

pg 26

Decade likely to be warmest on record: UN

CLIMATE The United Nations weather agency reported yesterday that this decade will probably rank as the warmest since records were first kept in 1850 — and this year could be one of the five warmest ever recorded.

The World Meteorological Organization also said that only Canada and the United States experienced cooler conditions than average. However, while the area around the Great Lakes was cooler, Vancouver and Victoria set hot-weather records in July.

The report came as countries met for the second of 12 days of climate talks in Copenhagen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 8, 10.

Celebration

Lights up

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Singers Diana Krall, left, and her husband, Elvis Costello, react as they push the button to light the Christmas tree during the Third Annual Amacon Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration last night at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Coverage, page 4.

Report slams RCMP

Cops inappropriate in Tasering Dziekanski, says watchdog

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The behaviour of four RCMP officers involved in the death of Robert Dziekanski "fell short of that expected by members of the RCMP" and the use of Taser was "premature and inappropriate," according to the independent body that monitors Canada's police force.

The Commission For Public Complaints against the RCMP (CPC) released its harshly critical report — which includes 23 findings and 16 recommendations — on the conduct of the officers involved in the Taser incident in October 2007.

"The members demonstrated no meaningful attempt to de-escalate the situation, nor did they approach the situation with a measured, co-ordinated and appropriate response," Commission chair Paul Kennedy said in Vancouver.

"No warning … was given to Mr. Dziekanski prior to him being Tasered," he said, adding that the Taser was used "multiple times … without any significant effort made to determine the need for further use."

Kennedy suggested that had the officers drawn Dziekanski's attention to the fact a weapon was pointed at him, it may have diffused the situation.

Dziekanski died moments after being hit several times with a Taser in the international arrivals terminal at Vancouver's airport in October, 2007.

The Polish immigrant, who spoke no English, had spent 10 hours wandering the terminal, and police were called when his behaviour suddenly became volatile.

Police said they felt Dziekanski posed a threat to their safety — he was holding an open stapler — but Kennedy said he didn't accept the officers' version of events, which contradicted a cellphone video taken by a witness.

The findings of Commissioner Thomas Braidwood, who conducted a public inquiry that wrapped up in October, are expected to be released in 2010.

Commission

Some key findings:

- The senior on-scene RCMP officer, Cpl. Monty Robinson, failed to take charge of the situation.
- The four officers inappropriately met alone prior to giving their statements and their version of events aren't deemed credible.

Some key recommendations:

- The RCMP should train its members in techniques to communicate with people with whom they can't meaningfully communicate.
- The RCMP should develop a media and communications strategy for investigations into police-involved shooting and in-custody deaths.

Canadian talent set for spotlight

OLYMPICS Whether or not Canadians own the podium at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, some Canucks will own the stage.

Nelly Furtado, Barenaked Ladies and Billy Talent are among the performers who have been announced to headline the Vancouver Victory Ceremonies at next year's Olympics.

Furtado

Loverboy, Hedley, Burton Cummings, Great Big Sea and INXS have also been confirmed for the concert series, which will feature a performance each night at B.C. Place from Feb. 14 to 26.

Billy Talent

The performances will accompany the presentation of Olympic medals in sports including speedskating, snowboarding and freestyle skiing.

One province or territory will be represented each night, though the performers will not always be associated with the region. The first will be a British Columbia-themed ceremony headlined by Nelly Furtado on Valentine's Day.

INXS

Tickets range from $22 to $50. The concerts will air nightly on MuchMusic at 8 p.m.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Travel pg 22

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Local

Lady Gaga in town for 3-day gig

Lady Gaga, left, will be calling Vancouver home for the next three days as she gets set to perform back-to-back-to-back concerts at Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The eccentric pop sensation, who played for the real Queen Elizabeth on Monday, was dubbed one of the 10 Most Fascinating People of 2009 by Barbara Walters yesterday. METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

One of the resident macaws at the Bloedel Conservatory.

Solutions sought to keep park attractions open

PROPOSALS A Vancouver park commissioner wants suggestions on ways to keep a pair of longtime attractions operating.

The Bloedel Conservatory and Stanley Park's Children's Farmyard got the axe at a recent board meeting as park commissioners struggled to balance a $2.8-million budget shortfall.

"We really agonized over it, and it was always our intention to keep the door open," said Vision Commissioner Aaron Jasper, who said the decision came down to closing the attractions or shutting down community centres.

On Monday, Jasper will float two motions before the board, asking for the public's suggestions — whatever they may be as long as they don't involve taxpayer dollars — to save the facilities.

He said he'd prefer business cases that keep the attractions running as they are, but would not preclude proposals for other uses.

One idea he suggested was a non-profit partnership, similar to the one that runs Van Dusen Gardens.

He said a few groups have already approached him, including one that was interested in running the farmyard, but minus its unionized staff.

"If there are 2,000 names on a Facebook page, does that equate to some solutions? We're hoping that all the passion and support that has been shown over the past two weeks can be leveraged."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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Bikers rally against Mountie

Charge in collision that killed man 'ridiculous': Protester

STIG NIELSEN for Metro Vancouver

About 150 people rallied at a Surrey courthouse yesterday to protest what they say is a "too lenient" charge against an RCMP officer involved in an off-duty collision that killed a motorcyclist.

Cpl. Benjamin (Monty) Robinson, who was also one of the four officers involved in the Robert Dziekanski Tasering at Vancouver's airport, is charged with obstruction of justice in the crash that killed 21-year-old Orion Hutchinson.

Robinson is accused of leaving the scene. He says he drove home to drop off his two kids, had a couple of drinks, then returned to the crash.

Claude Desrosiers, who a week ago started a 191-member-strong Facebook group to organize the protest, said he supports the original recommendation by Delta police to charge Robinson with drunk driving.

"The charge doesn't match the crime and you know, for him (Robinson) to hide behind the loopholes of a system that he knows, it's appalling," said Desrosiers.

Ian Easton said he joined the protest because he is "disgusted."

"I wasn't there, but the facts that are known is he (allegedly) left the scene and allegedly consumed alcohol after the fact, thereby causing a positive reading on the breathalyzer, so he's gone for a loophole right away and ignored this young man's final moments," said Easton.

Adele Tompkins, executive director of the B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists, was also at the rally.

"It's not just a motorcyclists' issue," Tompkins said. "It's everybody's issue that the charge is ridiculous."

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Paul Kehtler, having just received a ticket for parking his bike on the sidewalk, takes part in a protest outside a Surrey courthouse.

Province to close vaccination clinics on Dec. 18 as demand decreases

Flu **Outbreak**

HEALTH B.C.'s H1N1 vaccine clinics will close on Dec. 18.

Medical health officer Dr. Perry Kendall said yesterday that people should take advantage of the clinics until then to get immunized against the H1N1 flu.

"The demand is slowing down and we think that by the 18th, trying to keep large clinics open will not be a very good use of resources," he said.

"We think we can meet the demand without having to take over malls or high school gyms or community centres."

The shots will continue to be available at doctors' offices, medical clinics and through some pharmacists.

Three more people have died in B.C. after getting the H1N1 flu and 32 others had severe cases of the flu in the last week.

That's a sharp decline since the week before when eight deaths and 93 hospitalizations were reported.

Since April, 47 people have died in the province, with 40 of them having suffered from underlying medical conditions and five who didn't; two cases are still under investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PROPERTY Vancouver Olympic officials have signed a deal with national real-estate company Concord Pacific Developments Inc. for some badly needed space for the 2010 Winter Games. The deal is valued between $3 and $15 million and includes a cash payment, as well as the use of 4.8 hectares of land in downtown Vancouver during the Games, just behind two key venues. In exchange, Concord Pacific gets to brand themselves as an Olympic supplier and gets access to tickets and other marketing perks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GONDOLA The Peak-2-Peak gondola that links Whistler and Blackcomb mountains will be shut down to the public tomorrow as operation crews do evacuation training on the system. The gondola should be back in service on Friday.

GROW-OPS Police in Langley busted several grow-ops that were being hidden in three semi-trailers. No one has been arrested in connection with the raids, in which at least 665 pot plants were seized.

INUKSHUK The City of Richmond is unveiling a five-metre-high Inukshuk tomorrow that will be placed outside the UBC Boathouse, home of Speed Skating Canada during the 2010 Olympics.

OBSERVATORY Neptune Canada, the world's largest cabled ocean observatory, went online yesterday off the coast of Vancouver Island. For the next 25 years, Neptune will deliver scientific data to scientists and students across the world. The information will help affect policy on a number of deep-sea issues. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Crash hearing put off till January

COURT A court hearing for the Lower Mainland Mountie charged in a crash that killed a young motorcyclist was put over yesterday until January to give both sides time to muscle through the extensive case file.

Cpl. Benjamin (Monty) Robinson, one of four RCMP officers involved in the Tasering of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport, did not appear in court.

He is charged with attempting to obstruct justice in the October 2008 death of Orion Hutchinson.

Orion Hutchinson

The 21-year-old died at the scene from injuries sustained when he was thrown from his motorcycle after it collided with Robinson's jeep in an intersection.

Delta police had recommended charges of impaired driving causing death, but the Crown proceeded with a lesser charge, stating that there was a lack of evidence that Robinson's blood alcohol was over the legal limit or that his ability to operate a vehicle was impaired.

In a joint submission, Robinson's lawyer, Reg Harris, asked that the case be put over until Jan. 15.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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Blogs SpinDoctor on how Stephen Harper became the world's newest villain on climate change

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Architecture firms sink their teeth into sweet contest for charity auction

Ten local architecture firms are vying for first prize in the Gingerbread Competition and Charity Auction at the Museum of Vancouver tomorrow night. The houses, which include a First Nation long house, will be sold at a silent auction to raise money for Architecture for Humanity. To see the contestants visit creativeroom.ca/gingerbread. METRO VANCOUVER

City's Christmas tree set aglow

The Vancouver Art Gallery lit up like Rockefeller Center last night when hometown girl Diana Krall and husband Elvis Costello flipped the switch on Western Canada's largest Christmas tree.

Around 400 people turned out for the Third Annual Amacon Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration, where they were treated to performances from the Vancouver Children's Choir, and appearances from the Vancouver Giants — and Santa himself.

"I think it was really great for downtown," said Vancouver dad Justin Burggraeve. "This kind of thing only does positive things for our city."

Burggraeve, who attended with his family, was happy there was an outdoor event his kids could enjoy. "The kids totally loved it," he said. "They always love meeting Santa."

North Vancouver resident Trish Cotter hopes the success of these events leads to more for the city.

"We live in such a beautiful place," she said. "Vancouver should have more of these things. We just loved it."

The night was hosted by Rock 101's Bro Jake. Proceeds from the event will benefit a number of charities, totalling more than $350,000 to date.

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

ELLEN M. BANNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hearses carrying the four slain Lakewood officers arrive at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma, Wash., yesterday.

Local police attend Wash. memorial for slain officers

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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More than 300 police officers from Vancouver, West Vancouver and New Westminster were in Tacoma yesterday for the memorial of four Washington State officers who were shot to death in a coffee shop just over a week ago.

Other members signed a book of condolences that was laid out in the lobby of the Vancouver Police headquarters on Cambie Street.

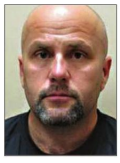
In all, around 20,000 people — mostly police and some from as far away as New York City — were at the Tacoma Dome to remember Sgt. Mark Renninger, and officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold and Greg Richards.

The officers were shot while working on laptops in a Tacoma-area coffee shop on Nov. 29. The only suspect in the shooting, Maurice Clemmons, was shot dead by police in Seattle on Dec. 1, after a two-day manhunt.

Sex offender arrested in shelter

ARREST A violent sex offender wanted by police in Calgary has been found and arrested in an Abbotsford homeless shelter.

A Canada-wide warrant was issued for Dean Robert Zimmerman, 44, on Oct. 13, after he disappeared from his home, breaching the conditions of his prison release.



Dean Robert Zimmerman

A worker at a shelter on Gladys Avenue in Abbotsford called police on Monday night to say they recognized Zimmerman from his mug shot. He had been staying there under an alias for several weeks.

Zimmerman spent around three years in a prison for sexual assault involving a weapon and forcible confinement.

He was released from prison at the end of September. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

COLLISION A 20-year-old Maple Ridge man was taken to hospital with serious injuries after losing control of his car and driving off the Lougheed Highway early yesterday morning. Police are investigating whether speed or alcohol played a part in the crash.

DRUG SENTENCING The Vancouver Police Department issued a statement yesterday to say it does not support Senate amendments to Bill C-15, which would remove minimum sentencing for grow ops under 200 plants. According to the VPD, the amendments would simply lead to the creation of grow-ops with only 199 plants.

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U.S. line ponies up

Bay to sell Olympic apparel from 12 countries

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

SEAN KOLENKI
for Metro Vancouver

SEAN KOLENKI/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Holly Hougham, right, and Dominic Downer model the American Olympic Village line yesterday at The Bay.

The red, white and blue shone proudly yesterday at The Bay's downtown store, as the Ralph Lauren-designed American Olympic clothing line had its Canadian unveiling.

The Olympic Village line includes sweaters, fleeces and winter jackets all with that iconic polo pony.

"It's been great. People are very happy that we're carrying clothing from other countries in the Olympics," said Neesha Hotli, events manager for the store.

The Bay plans to carry clothing from 12 other countries participating in the 2010 Games. While the other countries involved have not been announced yet, they will all be part of the store's International Olympic Village display that will hit the floor after the Christmas season.

"It's all going to be set up on our fifth floor," said Mary Remoue, group sales manager for The Bay. "We're very excited."

The Canadian Olympic clothing line has been on sale since Oct. 1, 2009, but due to the popularity of certain pieces not all items are always in stock.

Do you prefer the American or Canadian Olympic clothing line?

Peter Jorgensen
24, Vancouver
A: "I prefer the American line, it's much more exclusive. Ralph Lauren and the values he represents are equal to that of America."

Nicole Lyman
18, Switzerland
A: "I think the Canadian clothing is much nicer. I'm not a fan of Ralph Lauren at all. It's just not my style, I wouldn't wear it."

Jennifer Hall
27, Surrey
A: "The Canadian line is way better. It's much more streamlined, but I think it's way too expensive."

Stephanie Lee
22, Vancouver
A: "I prefer the Canadian clothing. It feels much more like home, it's warmer. The American line looks like you have to be athletic to wear it and, obviously, I'm not an athlete."

Games critic files police complaint

A critic of the 2010 Winter Olympics says he's filed a complaint with the province's police complaints commissioner against Victoria's police chief for outing an undercover officer.

Victoria freelance photographer Bruce Dean alleges Chief Jamie Graham endangered the unidentified officer by revealing in a speech to a security conference last week that a bus taking activists to protest the Olympic torch relay in Victoria was driven by an undercover cop.

Dean said Graham, who was Vancouver's police chief before moving to Victoria, acted improperly.

In documents posted on an anti-Olympic group's website, he said he complained to the commission in 2007 after an officer seized his digital camera and deleted several images the officer said showed an undercover officer. In that case, the commission came out in favour of protecting the undercover officer's identity.

Commission spokesman Bruce Brown said an investigation will be conducted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man charged with uttering threats on anti-feminist blog

The author of an anti-feminist blog was expected in Montreal court yesterday to face charges of uttering death threats, CBC News Online reports. Jean-Claude Rochefort, 60, is accused of uttering threats against women from April to December 2009. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Mother shot in front of child

Toronto police were searching for a male suspect yesterday in the slaying of 45-year-old Laura Rios, left, shot dead in front of her little girl. The two-year-old child, who was in a vehicle nearby, was not injured during the Monday night shooting and police said she is in a "safe place." Rios was arriving home at about 8:45 p.m. and organizing herself to get out of the car when the gunman fired. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beware of warmth, UN tells Canada

Agency notes troubling hot spots in B.C., tornadoes in Ontario

Go Green

The United Nations weather agency's sobering forecast that this decade may rank as the warmest since records were first kept in 1850 could turn up the heat on Canada.

The news — which also said 2009 could be one of the five warmest years ever recorded by scientists — comes as the Harper government faces heavy criticism at home and abroad to do more to fight climate change.

But Canada's top climate envoy says the UN report doesn't crank up the pressure to get a deal done in Copenhagen.

"I think it is simply a reconfirmation of what we know," said Michael Martin, the chief climate-change negotiator.

"We know that the science is clear and that we need to take urgent action."

If there was any ray of sunshine poking through the gloomy forecast, it was that only Canada and the United States experienced cooler conditions than on average.

January's average temperature in the Great Lakes region was colder than normal.

But the UN agency still noted troubling signs of a warming across Canada.

Vancouver and Victoria set hot-weather records in late July. A record number of tornadoes whipped across Ontario, killing a record number of people. And avalanches were almost double the yearly average for the past decade.

The warming effects have also been felt in the North.

Arctic sea ice has been melting for three decades. The biggest thaws come during the summer melt season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 10

CRTC tries to clear up cable-TV battle

TELEVISION It took the deadpan, I-don't-suffer-fools-gladly style of broadcast regulator Konrad Von Finckenstein to pinpoint what many Canadians might be feeling about the bewildering cable-versus-TV battle.

"Why are we frightening consumers, why are we putting out big figures, rather than trying to figure out how to solve this problem? The problem is we want to keep a viable Canadian TV system," the chairman of the Canadian Radio-television Commission told a row of cable and satellite executives yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP calls for MacKay's head over detainee issue

AFGHANISTAN The fury over the Afghan detainee controversy flared anew yesterday with demands for Defence Minister Peter MacKay's head following an unprecedented letter from 23 former ambassadors condemning the Harper government.

The NDP demanded MacKay's resignation, accusing him of misleading the House of Commons over what the government knew about the possible torture of prisoners handed over by Canadian troops — and what it did about the allegations.

"MacKay has zero credibility," MP Paul Dewar said. "The buck stops with MacKay and he has to go, and the prime minister must call a public inquiry into this coverup."

The fresh furor came after the release of a letter signed by 23 ex-ambassadors that condemned Tory attacks on the credibility of diplomat Richard Colvin, saying it threatens to cast a chill over Canada's foreign service. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgary **PETA 'bunnies' protest fur**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wearing bunny ears, cottontails, and signs reading Only Animals Should Wear Fur, PETA protesters Kristina Addington, right, and Elisa Mittag are watched by construction workers on a -20 C day in Calgary yesterday. The pair were in downtown Calgary to urge people to cross fur off their Christmas shopping lists.

News in brief

RECALL Two infant deaths in the U.S. have led to the recall of Amby Baby Motion Beds in that country, and Health Canada is advising Canadians to stop using the hammock-like baby bed due to a potential suffocation hazard. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

A new report urges Ottawa to partner with municipalities as a cheaper way to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. Scan this barcode for the full story.

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	415	173	256	429
2. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	417	175	248	423
3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	421	194	225	419
4. Cole Warren	NS, CA	422	151	267	418
4. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	421	174	244	418
6. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	418	180	233	413
6. Kelly Wrishko	AB, CA	417	171	242	413
6. Paula Almeida-Stille		421	173	240	413
6. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	421	173	240	413
10. Rick Kit	ON, CA	417	179	232	411
11. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	417	171	239	410
12. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	413	169	238	407
13. Brian B	AB, CA	417	173	233	406
13. Claude Brunelle	BC, CA	424	167	239	406
13. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	409	162	244	406

* Results exclude Quebec

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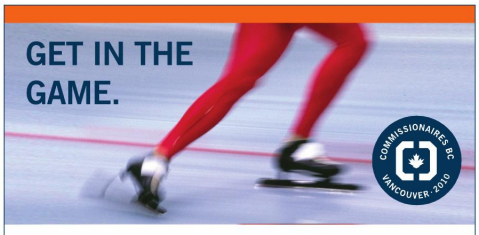

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Mine shut down over environmental concerns
A Mexican mine run by a Canadian company has been shut down over environmental concerns. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boost tax benefits for poor: Report

A Senate report on poverty says tax benefits for the poor should be increased to give them a guaranteed income equal to what is called the low-income cut-off line.

The report from the social affairs committee urges a federal minimum wage of $10 and says that child tax benefits should gradually rise to $5,000.

The report says government's goal should be to get people out of poverty, rather than trying to make poverty more manageable.

The 74 recommendations in the 290-page report cover everything from the general problems of getting people off welfare, to social housing, help for aboriginals and refugees and a federal-provincial strategy for early childhood education.

The report says the country's system for lifting people out of poverty is broken and needs overhaul.

It says existing programs often have "unintended perverse effects" which actually help trap people in poverty.

At the same time, these programs don't provide enough to ensure the poor can meet basic needs.

The report says governments can help.

It points out that programs to help seniors out of poverty have been enormously successful, suggesting that this can be extended to other groups.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Support programs

- The report urges concerted federal and provincial efforts to keep teens in school, help with post-secondary education and provide more support for people in training programs.

Quebec Olympic torch enters Mohawk town

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alwyn Morris, a 1984 Olympic gold medallist, shares the Olympic flame with local children yesterday as he carries it through the Mohawk town of Kahnawake south of Montreal.

Court grills U.S. lawyer in Conrad Black case

LAW Justices on the U.S. Supreme Court are asking tough questions about the fraud conviction of Canadian business mogul Conrad Black.

The questions suggest that the federal law that helped convict him may be too vague.

Black's lawyer, Miguel Estrada, argued that the law is so vague that it gives prosecutors free rein to prosecute and convict any conduct that looks suspicious.

Several justices — including the court's newest member, Sonia Sotomayor — appeared to agree.

They peppered federal government lawyer Michael Dreeben with questions about the so-called honest services law that's commonly used to prosecute corporate executives for fraud.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TOBACCO The B.C. Court of Appeal has opened the door for the federal government to share blame with tobacco companies for smoking-related health-care costs incurred by the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pope laments media coverage of evil

Pope Benedict XVI yesterday lamented what he described as a steady diet of news about evil in the world, saying it hardens hearts, as he prayed at Rome's Spanish Steps in a Christmas season tradition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Vintage bottle of wine auctioned off

A bottle of 1788 Vieux Cognac has sold at a Paris auction of wine and spirits for $36,935 US. The cognac, which pre-dates the French Revolution by a year, was part of a sale of 18,000 bottles from Paris' Tour d'Argent. The restaurant has one of the top wine cellars in the world. The restaurant donated the sum earned from the 1788 cognac to a French charity called Association Petits Princes, which grants the wishes of ailing children.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 11,000 killed by police?

BRAZIL Police in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have killed more than 11,000 people in the past six years, many in execution-style slayings, according to a report released yesterday by Human Rights Watch.

Few of the officers have been charged in the extrajudicial killings, which are often labelled in police reports as the deaths of suspects who resisted arrest, the report said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Two of Jamaica's most popular DJs have a face-to-face meeting at prime minister's office to end a feud some fear may provoke violence. Scan this barcode for the full story.

The heat is on

This decade is on track to become the warmest since records began in 1850, and 2009 could rank among the top five warmest years, the UN weather agency reported yesterday on the second day of a pivotal 192-nation climate conference in Denmark.

Only Canada and the U.S. experienced cooler conditions than average, the World Meteorological Organization said, although Alaska had the second-warmest July on record.

In central Africa and southern Asia, this will probably be the warmest year, but overall, 2009 will "be about the fifth-warmest year on record," said Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the WMO.

The decade 2000 to 2009 "is very likely to be the warmest on record, warmer than the 1990s, than the 1980s and so on," Jarraud told a news conference, holding a chart with a temperature curve pointing upward. The second warmest decade was the 1990s.

From 2007 to 2009, the summer melt reduced the Arctic Ocean ice cap to its smallest extent ever recorded.

In the 2007-2009 International Polar Year, researchers found that Antarctica is warming more than previously believed. Almost all glaciers worldwide are retreating.

Meanwhile, such destructive species as jellyfish and bark-eating beetles are moving northward out of normal ranges, and seas expanding from warmth and glacier melt are encroaching on low-lying island states.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go Green

'Optimistic'

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon predicted yesterday that a robust agreement to combat climate change will be reached in Copenhagen and implemented immediately.

"From all corners of the globe we see unprecedented momentum for a deal," the UN chief told reporters. "I'm encouraged and I'm optimistic."

Philippines Martial law protested

AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An activist holds a mock axe to condemn martial law during a protest in Manila yesterday. Amnesty International called on the Philippine government to revoke martial law in Maguindanao province, where troops cracked down on a clan and its supporters blamed for the massacre of 57 people.

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Bones found may be tourists
Officials say more bones found in California's Death Valley could be remains of tourists who vanished 13 years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More drama for Tiger Woods

Emergency crews were summoned to Tiger Woods' Orlando-area mansion for the second time in less than two weeks yesterday, this time because his mother-in-law was having stomach pains.

Barbro Holmberg was taken by ambulance to Health Central Hospital with stomach pains after a 911 call from Woods' house.

Holmberg, a Swedish politician, was released about 11 hours later and returned to Woods' mansion, hospital spokesman Dan Yates said.

Holmberg, who arrived in the U.S. a few days ago, lives in Sweden and is the mother of Woods' wife, Elin.

Health Central is the same hospital where Woods was treated after he crashed his sport utility vehicle outside his home in the gated Isleworth community in Windermere last month.

Media attention has been focused on the world's No. 1 golfer since he hit a hydrant and a tree on the Friday after U.S. Thanksgiving.

The Florida Highway Patrol last week cited Woods for careless driving and fined him $164 US. The accident — and Woods' refusal to answer questions about it — fuelled speculation about a possible dispute between him and Elin.

Just days before the crash, a National Enquirer story alleged Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it. After the crash, Us Weekly reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress named Jaimee Grubbs claims she had a 31-month affair with Woods.

Holmberg

Last week, Woods issued a statement saying he had let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." He did not elaborate.

A police report on the crash released Monday showed that a Florida trooper who suspected Woods was driving under the influence sought a subpoena for the golfer's blood results from the hospital he was taken to after the crash, but prosecutors rejected the petition for insufficient information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman stands next to a poster of Barack Obama outside the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway yesterday. Obama will receive the Nobel Peace Prize there tomorrow.

Obama turns focus to jobs

ECONOMY U.S. President Barack Obama set out fresh plans yesterday to reinvigorate the U.S. economy, focusing on incentives to small businesses and hiring to bring down what he called the "staggering" American 10 per cent unemployment rate.

Obama said he wants to push money left over from a financial rescue plan — the Troubled Asset Relief Program — toward the small business community for investment and hiring. He said additional funds also would be sought from other sources for infrastructure improvements and rebates to consumers who make their homes more energy efficient.

Obama has stepped up attention on America's high unemployment rate after spending much of the last few months focused mostly on health care and the war in Afghanistan.

The state of the economy — and the jobless rate in particular — could be the key issue in determining whether Democrats preserve their majorities in both chambers of Congress in next November's midterm elections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Treading water in a 'petrostate'

TheWestView

When Stephen Harper arrives at the Copenhagen climate conference next week, here's hoping security is better than it was Monday, when Greenpeace managed to crawl all over the Parliament Buildings unmolested.

Good thing Greenpeace is not a terrorist organization.

The real bad boy, say environmentalists, is Canada itself. Traditionally boring at worst, we have somehow acquired the status of rogue nation, like Iran. And if you think I exaggerate, here's Guardian columnist and climate crusader George Monbiot:

"The immediate threat to the global effort to sustain a peaceful and stable world comes not from Saudi Arabia or Iran or China. It comes from Canada."

Huh?

Monbiot is shocked and appalled by Alberta's oilsands and it makes him say inflammatory things: "So here I am, watching the astonishing spectacle of a beautiful, cultured nation turning itself into a corrupt petrostate."

"Corrupt petrostate" may be a bit harsh, but we are the only signatory to the Kyoto accord to abandon our commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, says Monbiot, we've actually increased by 26 per cent. The climate change performance index ranks Canada 59th out of 60, just ahead of last-place Saudi Arabia, that green paragon.

Until recently, Harper was blithely indifferent to all this climate change nonsense and wasn't planning to show up at Copenhagen. Maybe he's tired of being treated like the Kim Jong Il of climate change and doesn't want Canada declared Fossil of the Year for the third year in a row by the international environmental movement. Three-peat!

I suspect it's about what it's always about, the polls: 64 per cent of Canadians say rich nations have a responsibility to commit to tougher targets than developing countries. And Harper's plan to march lockstep with the Americans on climate has fallen flat as 81 per cent say Canada should act independently of the U.S.

So Harper's commitment to stay the corrupt petrostate course is causing him grief wherever humans breathe the air. He'll have to watch out for flying shoes and cream pies in Copenhagen. But that's all he's likely to do, as being a corrupt petrostate has its advantages, especially when the economic outlook is frostier than the weather forecast.

Meanwhile, the UN says this decade will likely be the warmest on record and as the ice melts, the oceans are rising 80 per cent higher than its 2001 forecast.

Good time to be treading water, eh?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: How well did the media handle the Tiger Woods affair?

Amanda Bartram
Vancouver

A: I feel he has been exploited just because he is a celebrity, and if he wasn't a celebrity it wouldn't be as big of a deal. It happens all the time and I don't think it belongs in the media.

Joshua Schmidt
Vancouver

A: I think that they have made a huge deal out of it and they should let him and his family work it out before they make huge reports on it. Both sides haven't been told very well ... It seems no one has any idea what really happened.

Eileen Marrousfi
Vancouver

A: I think that the media kind of exploded things out of proportion, but in general I would expect everyone to cover it because everyone else is, too. It's business. I don't necessarily think it is OK (covering an affair) but I think it is necessary for business.

Cody Dueck
Ottawa

A: I think it's his own business. I think the media is blowing it out of proportion.

Emma Cassidy
Toronto

A: They've exploited it. I think it's detrimental to Tiger Woods' family and relationships ... I think it's overkill ... I think it's disrespectful and hurtful to his family.

Alex Maissan
Edmonton

A: I think it was overblown. I mean, it only lasted for a day, but I saw it everywhere I looked and it drove me bonkers. It's my personal opinion that media sensationalizes a lot of things anyway.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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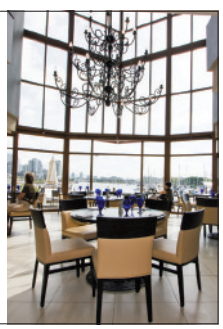

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It's better to give than to receive

Candymaker launches wage equity campaign
New Brunswick candymaker Ganong Brothers has launched a provincial project to involve employers and the public in reducing the wage gap between men and women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Rates stay at historic low

But Bank of Canada warns the economy is still fragile

The Bank of Canada is keeping its rates at historic lows, warning that while there are signs the economy is on the upswing, "significant fragilities remain."

Those fragilities manifested themselves in an economy that grew less than analysts expected in the third quarter of the year, and inflation that has been slightly higher than the central bank expected.

"While significant fragilities remain, global economic developments have been slightly more positive and the global outlook has improved modestly."
Bank of Canada

For those reasons, the Bank of Canada said yesterday its key overnight rate will remain unchanged at 0.25 per cent, effectively the lowest possible.

"While significant fragilities remain, global economic developments have been slightly more positive and the global outlook has improved modestly relative to the bank's projection in its October monetary policy report," the bank said in a release yesterday.

The Bank of Canada made an unusual commitment early this year to keep its key rates unchanged until the middle of 2010, but economists have speculated that might change if the economy grew too quickly and inflation threatened to get out of hand.

Yesterday, the central bank repeated its pledge to keep rates at this level until the end of the second quarter 2010 and renewed its warning about the risks for inflation.

But some economists are calling for rate hikes as much as a full percentage point or more later next year.

And they say the bank's commitment to keep its key rates at 0.25 per cent creates a false sense of security in borrowers who have taken on debts larger than they could normally afford.

C.D. Howe president and CEO William Robson says a rapid rise in interest rates expected late next year could prove devastating for homeowners who have not evaluated their ability to carry their mortgage at a higher interest rate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife
Not so recession-proof after all? Supersized downturn finally catches up to McDonald's bottom line. Scan this barcode for the full story

Canwest hits at Goldman, citing partner's 'selfish move'

COURTS A lawyer for Canwest Global Communications says investment partner Goldman Sachs is hindering the company's restructuring process.

Lyndon Barnes told a Superior Court judge a disagreement over the ownership of its media division that holds specialty TV assets could slow down the entire restructuring, which he calls a selfish move by Goldman to gain an unfair advantage.

But the Wall Street investment bank says Canwest shifted around the TV assets within their operations without consulting them, and the move could be a way for creditors to tighten control on the lucrative specialty channel assets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Season over for Portis
The Washington Redskins placed running back Clinton Portis on injured reserve yesterday, ending his season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Erat sinks Canucks

NHL RESULTS

Canucks 2 Predators 4

VS

The Vancouver Canucks had not lost a game in Nashville in more than three years. Martin Erat took care of that.

Erat had his second career NHL hat trick and added an assist to lead the Nashville Predators to a 4-2 victory over the Canucks last night.

The Predators beat the Canucks at home for the first time since Nov. 23, 2006.

After winning the first two games of a four-game trip, the Canucks lost at Carolina and Nashville.

Patric Hornqvist had the other goal for the Predators.

Ryan Kesler and Daniel Sedin scored for Vancouver.

Erat gave Nashville a 1-0 lead at 4:19 of the first period. He corralled a loose puck below the goal line and banked a shot in, first off the goal post and then off the left skate of goalie Roberto Luongo.

MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predators' forward Martin Erat, right, controls the puck with his hand as he comes down the ice against the Canucks last night in Nashville, Tenn. Erat potted a hat trick in the affair.

Erat struck again at 3:03 of the second period. With the Predators on the power play, Francis Bouillon sent Erat into the Vancouver zone with a tape-to-tape pass from the red-line. Erat skated toward Luongo and beat him between the pads with a forehand to backhand move.

"We made a few mistakes, but you can only go to the well so many times before it bites you," Luongo said. "Taking penalties every game, you get away with it sometimes, but it's going to hurt you once in a while."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Why Luongo should start for Canada

TheHockeyNews

Who would be your starting netminder for Team Canada at the Olympics?

It's a debate hotly contested from St. John's to Victoria and you'll never conclude the argument with all sides in agreement.

I recently found myself enthralled in this debate, taking the side of Vancouver's captain, Roberto Luongo. I can understand an argument for Marc-Andre Fleury and I could live with the decision of Martin Brodeur, but to me Luongo is currently the best of the bunch, capable of backstopping Canada to Olympic gold.

At The Hockey News, we're currently working on an issue about the greatest players of the past decade. It's a great way to measure consistency and longevity when you analyze which goaltenders have the most wins, best save percentage and lowest goals-against average since Jan. 1, 2000.

Of course, Luongo ranks among the best in all the major categories.

Brodeur is first in games played, wins and shutouts, with Luongo second, fourth and third, respectively. The only stat Luongo appears towards the bottom of is GAA, with a 2.56 mark, putting him 23rd and in with the likes of Patrick Lalime, Arturs Irbe and Ty Conklin. But keep in mind, Luongo toiled for the Florida Panthers in five playoff-less seasons behind a defense led by Robert Svehla, Sandis Ozolinsh and Brad Ference.

Ever since his move to Vancouver, a team with real upwards aspirations, Luongo's GAA hasn't finished higher than 2.38.

The fact he's been at the top of the pile despite drowning on some of the league's worst teams is testament to how good this guy is. Heck, even his playoff record, despite the stigma of last season's playoff finale, is impressive. A 2.09 GAA and .930 save percentage outweigh the more team-oriented 11-11 record.

Would I have a problem if Brodeur was picked as the No. 1? Heck no, how can you say no to the all-time best? But at some point you have to hand over the reins and Luongo is that guy you go to.

Sure Fleury has his Cup, but you're telling me Pittsburgh would have done worse with Luongo?

When you really break it down and recognize Luongo's massive, steadying, overbearing presence in the net, it's easy to see why his talent is the one that should be leading Canada in 2010 and not constantly poked and prodded for a perceived lack of results.

The Hockey News
thn.com

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Teahen reaches deal with White Sox

Third baseman Mark Teahen agreed yesterday to a $14-million US, three-year deal with the Chicago White Sox. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yanks near big trade

Instead of spending at these winter meetings, the New York Yankees are in a dealing mode.

The World Series champions pulled off the first big trade of this year's session, reaching a tentative agreement yesterday on a three-team, seven-player swap that would bring them all-star centre-fielder Curtis Granderson from Detroit.

New York would trade right-hander Ian Kennedy to Arizona, and lefty reliever Phil Coke and outfield prospect Austin Jackson to Detroit, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet final.

Detroit would ship all-star pitcher Edwin Jackson to the Diamondbacks, and Arizona would send touted young pitchers Max Scherzer and Daniel Schlereth to the Tigers. The teams were still working on technical aspects of the trade, the official said, including checking medical records.

The speedy Granderson would displace Melky Cabrera as centre-fielder on the Yankees. Cabrera could shift to left, depending on whether New York re-signs Johnny Damon or designated hitter Hideki Matsui.

Granderson was a first-time all-star last season, when he had 30 homers, 71 RBIs and 20 steals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Money issues?

- Detroit may be looking to cut payroll after a big attendance drop this year at Comerica Park. Curtis Granderson is owed $23.75 million US over the next three years.

Still some kinks in Packers' game

NFL Their defence is on the rise, their offence is doing a better job protecting oft-hit quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers have won four straight games to put themselves in solid shape for the playoffs.

But Monday night's victory over the Baltimore Ravens showed a few of the problems that have hounded the Packers (8-4) all season might not be going away. They're still drawing an alarming number of penalties, and their special teams seem to choose the worst possible moments to melt down.

The Packers are running out of time to solve those problems before the playoffs, but they are getting much better at bouncing back from their mistakes.

"We didn't lay it down," tight end Jermichael Finley said. "Teams have known for us to lay it down in the second half, and we didn't do that."

The Packers came into the season with playoff expectations. But they got off to a disappointing 4-4 start, giving up too many sacks, drawing penalties and allowing long returns at critical points in games.

However, the Packers gave up only one sack to the Ravens Monday night and have allowed just four in their last three games. Their defence is clearly getting more comfortable with defensive co-ordinator Dom Capers' 3-4 scheme. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers escapes the Baltimore pass rush during Monday's game. The Packers beat the visiting Ravens 27-17.

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Canadian scoring star Cody Hodgson will miss the world junior championship with a back injury. The 19-year-old informed Hockey Canada yesterday that he will not be able to participate in a selection camp that begins Saturday in Regina, and won't play in the Dec. 26-Jan. 5 tournament in Regina and Saskatoon. He was drafted 10th overall by the Canucks in 2008.

SOCCER Bayern Munich scored two goals in each half yesterday to beat Juventus 4-1 and advance to the knockout round of the Champions League. Elsewhere in Champions League action, it was Manchester United 3 Wolfsburg 1, Real Madrid 3 Marseille 1, and Chelsea 2 APOEL Nicosia 2.

CURLING Glenn Howard continues to lead the field at the Canadian Olympic curling trials in Edmonton. Howard, from Coldwater, Ont., won his fourth straight game and remains alone in first place after three days of competition.

HOCKEY The Moose is taking his next management role with the national team. Mark Messier will be named Canada's general manager for the 2010 IIHF World Hockey Championship at a press conference today, according to a source.

CURLING Cheryl Bernard picked up her fourth straight victory at the Canadian Olympic curling trials yesterday, stealing four from Kelly Scott in the tenth end to seal a 9-7 win. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Nashville 4 VANCOUVER 2
Montreal 4 Ottawa 1
Anaheim 4 Dallas 3 (OT)
Philadelphia 6 N.Y. Islanders 2

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 94 Minnesota 88
Boston 98 Milwaukee 89
Charlotte 107 Denver 95
Dallas 102 Phoenix 101
Memphis 111 Cleveland 109 (OT)
New Jersey 103 Chicago 101
New Orleans 96 Sacramento 94
Orlando at L.A. Clippers

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Universities remain cautious despite endowment rebounds

Due to a rebound in financial markets, Canadian university endowment funds have recouped much of the losses they suffered during the downturn. Despite gains, universities remain cautious about endowment spending and will continue with the money-saving measures according to University Affairs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Ontario Colleges' worldly goal

In a new position paper from Colleges Ontario, the presidents of the province's 24 colleges propose the Ontario government adopt four goals to successfully implement a new vision for higher education in the province. These goals include improving student mobility and expanding student choice and aligning PSE with the needs of the transforming economy. The goal, the report states, is to make Ontario a world leader in PSE. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The best Santa you can be

'Tis the **Season**

Over the next few weeks Metro's Workology section will be shining a light on some of the jobs that pop up around the holiday season and dissappear just as quickly afterwards. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Jennifer Andrews is not a white-bearded, elderly man. "I'm not a jolly fat guy at all!" she laughs, but the 37-year-old is Head Elf at the Santa School, a world-renowned training centre for top Santas.

Based in Calgary, the Santa School draws Father Christmases from all over Canada and the U.S., teaches them the secrets of St. Nick, then dispatches them across the continent and beyond, including to the U.K. and Hong Kong.

The school was founded by Victor Nevada, but when he passed away in March, Andrews stepped up to "carry the candy cane."

The school offers a three-pronged approach. "We train Santas, we supply outfits and accessories for Santas, and we book out Santas," Andrews explains. "What makes a Santa great is what's in his heart, but you can't train that. What we train them to do is … how to give the full show when they walk through the door."

Santa's got to smell right, look "regal" and keep his beard bushy. Professional actors and voice coaches ensure the ho-ho-hos have a North Pole accent.

"We don't want cookie-cutter Santas. We want them to be their own genuine version of that character, because Santa can't be everywhere all the time," she says. "He's a busy guy."

They also train elves and Mrs. Clauses and bring in real reindeer so the L.A. and Miami Santas can "reunite" with their coworkers for photos. The school goes into overdrive to meet the fall need for new Santas and is planning to start offering a spring course to keep up with demand.

Gerald Cooper could probably set up a Santa school of his own: He's been slipping into the big red suit since the 1950s. The 74-year-old and his wife, Betty, team up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus around Halifax. He loves community centres and hospitals, but swore off shopping malls years ago.

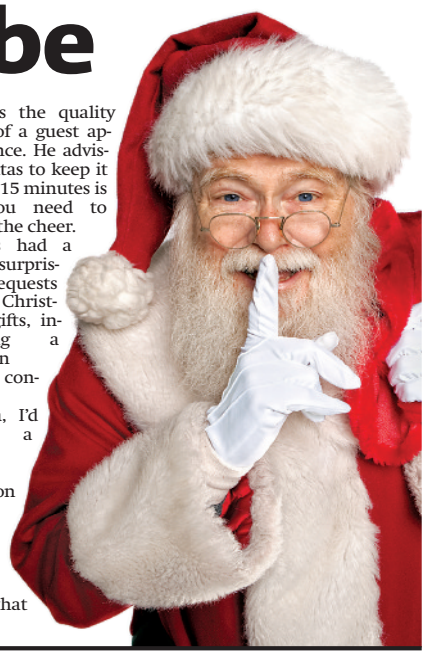
"You sit there with this warm suit on for one full hour, and it's a steady stream of kids sitting on your lap," he recalls. He prefers the quality time of a guest appearance. He advises Santas to keep it short: 15 minutes is all you need to bring the cheer.

He's had a lot of surprising requests for Christmas gifts, including a woman who confided: "Santa, I'd like a man."

No word on what came down her chimney that year.

Santa school tips

- Stay in character the whole time.
- Have the right outfit.
- Practise your Ho-ho-hos.
- Remember: It's all about the love.



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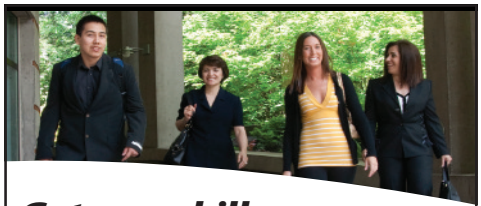

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Office parties: To go, or not to go

Dragons' **Den**

Dianne Buckner

metronews.ca/dragonsden

This is the season to party it up! Company holiday parties ain't what they used to be, thanks to the economic downturn. They've actually been winding down for some time now, with employers' dawning realization that getting staff liquored up isn't really the best idea at any time of year. Bill's off-colour jokes and Sally's stripper dance moves were probably best kept to their personal lives.

But is workplace socializing a good idea in the first place?

Arlene Dickinson says yes. She's the sole female on the panel of Dragons' Den, bringing not only a woman's perspective to the business ideas that get pitched, but also a marketer's viewpoint. Her firm Venture Communications has expanded beyond Calgary to offices in Toronto and Ottawa.

"My company has a regular social outing,' says Arlene. "Every Thursday we shut down at 4 p.m., and head out of the office to spend some time together, to celebrate something that we've achieved as an organization that week." She picks up the tab.

Arlene acknowledges that not everybody is social by nature, but she believes this type of team-building exercise contributes to the company's success.

"It helps the culture of an organization," she says. "There's no big structure to our get-togethers — it's just a chance for everyone to take a breath, and get to know each other."

It's rare for companies to sponsor social time outside of work. Most of the time if there's an after-work beer expedition, co-workers have organized it themselves. But those gatherings can improve a person's feelings about the workplace.

Kevin O'Leary wishes you a happy holiday season. This column will be taking a break until the show starts up in January.

Even if you don't choose to spend valuable personal time with colleagues, it's important to greet people nicely every day, and inquire about their life outside work. Life is too short to not have a pleasant environment in which to work.

The Dragons' Den staff has certainly built a strong team spirit, in part through socializing at "Health and Safety" meetings, the codename for our outings! And the result is on display tonight on television — an entertaining, informative show that requires plenty of creativity and hard work. The holiday theme of tonight's episode didn't stop the Dragons from insulting each other even more than usual — and the production team will be watching at the executive producer's home!

Dianne Buckner hosts Gemini-winning show Dragons' Den. She's also a weekend anchor on the CBC News Network. Dragons' Den airs tonight at 8 p.m. on CBC.

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University of Manitoba has nearly $2-billion impact on local economy
According to a new study from the University of Manitoba, over $1.8 billion in province-wide economic activity is stimulated by the institution. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Good parties for you and the planet

Office shindigs can be fun, you just need the right caterer

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

When the office needs its halls decked on a budget, many companies call in the professionals to avoid turning the Christmas party into unpaid overtime. With the right caterers, companies can throw an affordable, environmentally friendly Christmas.

Toronto's Daniel et Daniel takes on extra staff to handle the business boom at Christmas. Vice-president Russell Day says the economic downturn means offices are looking to keep the annual party low key, but that low cost doesn't have to mean low fun.

"The best way is to keep it internal. Have an office party and have us come to you," says Day. Cocktail parties or lunches are popular, featuring easy, affordable menus, "so we can bring the joy to people's offices."

The key is to transform the ambience so people don't just awkwardly lean on the photocopier and wonder when they can leave. Dim the lights, light a few candles and turn on the holiday music, Day says. Daniel et Daniel will decorate, too, bringing feather trees for offices that prefer to celebrate "the holidays," rather than Christmas. Decorators can turn the reception desk into a bar, the boardroom into a buffet and even bring in lounge furniture and DJ to really spruce it up.

"The idea behind our company is no paper, no plastic, no styrofoam. It's more of a state of being that's important."
One Planet Catering's Michael Krauss

"All of a sudden, people are dancing on the photocopier," Day laughs. "It's not a party until it's a little rocking."

In Vancouver, Michael Krauss is changing the idea that Christmas equals wastefulness. One Planet Catering opened its doors in January and is gearing up for its first green Christmas. It focuses on local, organic food and creating a smaller carbon footprint.

"The idea behind our company is no paper, no plastic, no styrofoam," Krauss says. "It's more of a state of being that's important."

He decided to form his eco-catering company a few years ago when he was working at another Vancouver eatery. A girl sat at the counter opening sugar packets and writing her name in the grains while her mother ignored her.

"I thought, more than 680,000 people died in slavery being shipped from Africa into the Caribbean for the sole purpose of sugar plantation, and 150 years later we seem to have lost all the respect for where the food comes from, how it's grown. We seem to be taking food for granted," he says. "I want to create something with more meaning."

If you get the right caterer, and set up your office in the right way, any office holiday party can be fun.

Workology in brief

ISOTOPES AT MCMASTER NO MORE: An expert panel advising the federal government has ruled out McMaster University's nuclear reactor as a long-term solution to the medical isotope shortage. Earlier this year, McMaster presented a plan for its reactor to produce medical isotopes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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MADD rates impaired driving laws
Ontario has taken the top honours for effective impaired driving laws, while Nunavut was the worst in ratings by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Audi's green win
For the second year in a row, Green Car Journal has named a German diesel Green Car of the Year. The 42-mpg Audi A3 TDI topped a field that included three hybrids and two diesels to take the award presented at the Los Angeles Auto Show. WIRED.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Outback's come a long way

Mix of wagon and sport-ute Subaru's winning combo

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Who can forget those mid-'90s ads starring Aussie actor Paul Hogan shilling for some car company you'd never really heard from before? And that Outback thing he was pushing? It promised more room, better handling and less fuel consumption compared to the best-selling Ford Explorers and Jeep Grand Cherokees of the time. Seemed very cheeky for a station wagon on stilts to suggest it could keep up with the traditional body-on-frame SUVs that dominated the sales charts.

The 2010 Subaru Outback was named the Best New SUV/CUV under $35K at the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada Awards.

Fast forward 15 years, and the Outback is hitting its fourth generation in stride, but still maintaining the same mission as before: to offer the space, performance and abilities of a sport-ute in the silhouette and footprint of a station wagon.

The new 2010 Outback — named the Best New SUV/CUV under $35K at the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada Awards — remains based on the Legacy sedan, which means that its footprint is longer and wider than before. Taller too.

Most Outbacks receive power from a revised 2.5-litre four-cylinder boxer engine that produces 170 hp. In the base car, that engine receives a PZEV (Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle) rating, which is ideal for the environmentally conscious crew. The 2.5 receives two new transmissions for 2010: a standard six-speed manual, and the company's new continually variable transmission (CVT). The Lineartronic CVT uses a chain rather than a belt to improve power delivery, and on the road, the standard steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters give the driver more than enough control on the road.

To tackle the rough stuff, every Outback uses Subaru's full-time "symmetrical" all-wheel drive system, and the revised suspension now rides higher than before, giving more ground clearance than most "real" SUVs.

The Outback doesn't feel tippy when driving. In fact, its ability to negotiate rough gravel roads and washouts is highly impressive.

Inside, Subaru has delivered a spacious cabin with improved materials and excellent levels of standard convenience and safety equipment, including a plug-and-play USB audio system. Every Outback delivers huge cargo space thanks to a revised rear suspension that intrudes less into the body.

Pricing starts at $28,995 for the 2.5i PZEV while the 3.6R starts at $35,695.

Subaru has delivered a larger, more capable vehicle with more equipment and are offering it at a lower price.

Subaru has delivered a spacious cabin with improved materials and excellent levels of convenience and safety equipment.

2010 Subaru Outback

Type: Sport utility vehicle
Price: from $28,995
Engine: 2.5L four cylinder
HP: 170

Highlights

- Combination of sporty utility and station wagon
- Huge cargo space
- Steady on off-roading

Toyota Sienna revamped for 2011

NEW MODEL An all new, third generation, 2011 Toyota Sienna was unveiled recently at the 2009 Los Angeles Auto Show.

The new Sienna continues to be the only vehicle in its segment that offers an all-wheel-drive option — ideal for a changing Canadian climate.

The new model will offer innovative firsts in versatility, refinement, comfort, and entertainment. With the choice of eight models, two powertrains and drivetrains, flexible seating, second row ottoman seating, a wide split-screen entertainment system, and a multi-panel panoramic moonroof, Sienna drivers will be delighted by the made to measure philosophy behind the new model.

"The new Sienna is the perfect vehicle for Canadians with busy lifestyles — those who need a vehicle that can switch effortlessly between several roles, day in and day out," said Warren Orton of Toyota Canada.

2011 Toyota Sienna.

The Sienna was designed by Toyota's Calty Design Research and developed at Toyota Technical Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

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of additional incentives over and above those currently offered when combined with the $300 available from the Government of Canada's Retire Your Ride program. Incentives range from $1000 to $3000. Visit ford.ca for details.

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WISE BUYERS READ LEGAL COPY: Offers available at participating dealers only. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Factory order may be required. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See participating Dealer for details. Offers apply to BC residents only. *Cash purchase a new 2010 Ford Focus S with 5-speed manual transmission/Ford Fusion S with 6-speed manual transmission/Ford Taurus SE FWD with automatic transmission/Ford Mustang V6 Coupe with 5-speed manual transmission for $14,449/$19,949/$28,949/$22,449 after delivery allowance of $2,000/$3,000/$2,500/$3,500 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after delivery allowance deducted. All offers on 2010 Ford Focus S with 5-speed manual transmission/Ford Fusion S with 6-speed manual transmission/Ford Taurus SE FWD with automatic transmission/Ford Mustang V6 Coupe with 5-speed manual transmission include air tax & freight of $1,450 and delivery allowance of $2,000/$3,000/$2,500/$3,500. All offers exclude license, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. **The Ford Get In and Drive Year End Event ("Year End Event") is in effect from November 5, 2009 to January 4, 2010 at participating Ford of Canada Dealerships. During the Year End Event one or more combinations of $0 first month's payment, 0% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) purchase financing for up to 72 months, $0 down payment or $0 due at signing will apply to the purchase finance or lease of select new 2010 Ford vehicles. Offers vary by model and not all combinations will apply. Offers are available to customers taking retail incentives and may only be available on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Purchase financing and lease offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, fuel fill charge, insurance, PPSA, registration, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. These offers are subject to vehicle availability and may be cancelled at any time without notice. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Some conditions apply. See your Ford Dealer for complete details. Purchase finance or lease an eligible new 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle through Ford Credit between November 3, 2009 and January 4, 2010 and get first monthly payment paid up to a maximum amount of $500/$750/$1,000/$1,250/$1,500 per eligible 2010 Ford (Focus, Fusion, Escape, Ranger,) / (Mustang (excluding GT500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer 4Dr, Explorer Sport Trac, Transit Connect, E-Series) / (Expedition, F-150 (excluding SVT Raptor), F-Series SuperDuty (excluding F450-F550 chassis cabs), Lincoln MKZ, Lincoln MKS, Lincoln MKD / (Lincoln MKT) / (Lincoln Navigator). Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Offer is only available OAC from Ford Credit. A, X, Z, D, F plan customers are eligible. Not combinable with Commercial Fleet Incentive program, CPA, GPC or Daily Rental Allowances. On applicable vehicle lines this offer can also be combined with the Commercial Connection Program. Raincheks are only available on the purchase or lease of offer eligible vehicles and the vehicles must be factory ordered during the program period. Vehicles must be delivered on or before January 4, 2010. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Receive 0% APR purchase financing on all new 2010 Ford Focus models (excluding S) for a maximum of 72 months. Receive 0% APR purchase financing on all new 2010 Fusion (excluding S and Hybrid)/Mustang (excluding Value Leader and GT500)/Edge (excluding SE)/Flex (excluding SE) models for a maximum of 60 months to qualified retail customers OAC from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. E.g., $20,000/$14,449 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60/72 months, monthly payment is $333.33/$200.68, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $20,000/$14,449. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit. $0 due at signing, when leasing or purchase financing, offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, insurance, fuel fill charge, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all other applicable taxes. Freight and air tax charges to be included in the total amount to be financed. Excluded variable charges can be amortized over a purchase financing term, but are required up front charges for lease customers. See your Ford Dealer for complete details. $0 Security Deposit on the lease of most new 2010 Ford vehicles (excluding 2010 Ford Shelby GT 500, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, F-150 Raptor, F-350 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines, F-450 & F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines) effective November 5, 2009 through January 4, 2010. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions. Receive ($1,000/$2,000/$3,500)/($2,500/$2,000)/($5,000)/($3,500)/$4,000)/ ($5,000)/($7,000)/($8,000) in price adjustments when you cash purchase, purchase finance or lease a new 2010 Ford (Ranger RegularCab FEL/Explorer 4 door/F450-F550 Chassis Cabs Gas Engine)/(Focus S)/(Transit Connect/Fusion Hybrid/Escape Hybrid/F-150 Chassis Cabs/ F450-F550 Chassis Cabs Diesel Engines)/(Taurus)/(Ranger SuperCab XL and RegularCab non-FEL)/Fusion S/Edge SE/Flex SE/Escape non-hybrid/Expedition)/(Mustang V6 Value Leader)/(Ranger SuperCab non-XL)/(Explorer Sport Trac/F-150 RegularCab)/(F-150 SuperCab/F-150 SuperCrew)/(F-250 - 450 non-chassis cabs) models. ‡In order to qualify for the Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives, you must qualify for the Government of Canada's "Retire Your Ride Program" and you must turn in a 1995 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been properly registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", Ford of Canada will provide additional incentives towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle in the amount of $1,000 (Focus, Fusion, Fusion Hybrid, Mustang, Taurus, Transit Connect, Ranger), $2,000 (Escape, Escape Hybrid, Edge, Flex, Taurus X, Explorer, Sport Trac), and $3,000 (F150, F250-550, E-Series, Expedition, MKZ, MKS, MKX, MKT, Navigator). If you qualify, the Government of Canada will provide you with $300 cash or a rebate on the purchase of a 2004 and newer vehicle as part of their Retire Your Ride program. These Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are only in effect from November 3rd to January 4th, 2010. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives will be applied after taxes. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are not available on any vehicle receiving Commercial Fleet Incentive Program, Competitive Price Allowance or Government Price Concession, Fleet Delivery Allowance, or Daily Rental Incentives. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. The Government of Canada's "Retire Your Ride Program" is not available to residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut and, therefore, Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are also not available to residents of North West Territories Yukon or Nunavut. Other provincially specific rewards may be available in association with the government's "Retire Your Ride program", for more information visit retireyourride.ca. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2009 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved. ††See your Ford of Canada Dealer or contact SIRIUS at 1-888-539-7474 for more information. "SIRIUS" and the SIRIUS dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. Includes 6 month prepaid subscription. †††Fuel consumption ratings are based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, driving habits and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel efficiency figures based on the 2010 Ford Focus S 2.0L I4 5-speed manual/2010 Ford Fusion S FWD 2.5L I4 6-speed manual. ▼Based on estimated fuel consumption ratings: Fusion Hybrid 4.6L/100km city and 5.4L/100km hwy or Fusion S, I4 automatic 8.9L/100km city and 5.8L/100km hwy (excluding hybrid). Midsize class per R.L. Polk & Co. (U.S.)/Intermediate per R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Limited quantities of Fusion S available in Canada. ***Most 2010 Ford vehicles, excluding 2010 Model LCF, F-650 and F-750, come with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Powertrain Warranty and full Roadside Assistance benefits together with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Safety Restraint Warranty. In addition, on all 2010 Model F-Super Duty vehicles equipped with the diesel engine, the Powertrain Warranty is extended to 5 year/160,000 km (whichever occurs first), which equals the diesel engine warranty. Some conditions and limitations apply. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ▲Class is five-passenger large cars equipped with standard and optional driver-centric technology features.

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MSRP	$28,885
Visa card	($500)
Rebate	($3,200)

AND $171 PER MONTH

KIA Vancouver price $25,185

PLUS 0%

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PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V09155

KIA Rio 2009 EX

MSRP	$15,050
Visa card	($500)
Rebate	($2,850)

AND $78 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $11,700

PLUS 0%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V09050

KIA Sedona 2009 LX V6

MSRP	$30,395
Visa card	($500)
Rebate	($6,250)

AND $144 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $23,695

PLUS 4.9%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V01112

KIA Soul 2010

MSRP	$17,445
Visa card	($300)
Rebate	($200)

AND $199 BIWEEKLY

KIA Vancouver price $16,945

PLUS 2.9%

PLUS No Payments until Spring 2010
PLUS KIA Integrity Advantage (job loss)

STK# V1060

KIA Forte 2010 EX

MSRP	$17,150
Visa card	($300)
Rebate	($700)

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KIA Vancouver price $16,150

PLUS 0%

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SEDONA: $144 BI WEEKLY PAYMENT, 3.99% 60/84 BI WEEKLY, PLUS $495 DOC FEE, $495 FPF, $130 LEVIES, TP $22988 + RES $7235
SOUL: $119 BI WEEKLY PAYMENT, 3.9% 60/84 BI WEEKLY, PLUS $495 DOC FEE, $495 FPF, $130 LEVIES, TP $19023 + RES $5974
FORTE: $110 BI WEEKLY PAYMENT, 2.9% 60/84 BI WEEKLY PLUS $495 DOC FEE, $495 FPF, $130 LEVIES, TP $18138 + RES $5563

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A pre-owned Honda Pilot is a great option if you are looking for reliability and plenty of storage.

Perfect for families

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2003 to 2008 Honda Pilot
VEHICLE TYPE: Sport Utility
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $13,000 to $30,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: A full-sized sport utility vehicle (SUV), Honda's Pilot's got room for up to eight people, plenty of storage and a towing capacity of over 2,000 kilograms. For Honda drivers with busy families, cottages and power-toys, the Pilot was the machine of choice.

Shopping used, look for hardware like a sunroof, navigation system, premium audio, heated leather seating and automatic climate control. Pilot trim-level nomenclature saw models labeled LX for entry-level, EX and EX-L for mid-range, and EX-L Navi for top of the line.

Power in all models came from a 3.5 litre VTEC V6 engine which developed either 240 or 244 horsepower depending on the year selected. No V8 was available.

A five-speed automatic was standard, as was Honda's Variable Torque Management (VTM) 4x4 system. VTM ran the Pilot in a gas-saving front-drive mode, but could instantly kick in four wheel drive as needed to tackle slippery situations.

The system was fully automatic and mechanically simple, and it required no driver involvement whatsoever.

Second Gear

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Most owners love the room, capability and feeling of security the Pilot delivers on the road. A commanding driving position, comfortable ride and reasonably responsive steering and brakes are commonly enjoyed, too.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Common complaints deal with the durability of paint and interior materials. Some owners report paint that chips easily, and leather that's easily scuffed and damaged. Some owners have wished for a telescoping steering column or a more powerful stereo system, too.

COMMON ISSUES: Check front footwell carpeting for moisture, as there have been several reports of a water leak into the passenger compartment. Wet carpeting can cause mildew, mold and rust to the floor beneath.

Check for proper operation of all interior accessories, paying special attention to both the front and rear climate-control blower motors. These should turn on quickly and be free of questionable sounds.

Pay attention to the shift quality of the Pilot's transmission, and note any hesitation, grinding or unwelcome sensations while driving. Shifts should be smooth and consistent.

Otherwise, common-sense used SUV shopping tips are key here. Fully inspect the Pilot's underside for signs of leaks, dents, excessive rust or holes. Ensure all fluid changes are up to date, budgeting for a full fluid change if the vehicle's service history is unavailable.

Also, note that Pilot's engine uses a timing belt which needs periodic replacement. Be sure the timing belt in your used Pilot isn't overdue for a change.

THE VERDICT: Pilot lacks V8 power and has a few issues to watch for, but one could certainly do worse in the reliability department where a large family hauler is concerned.

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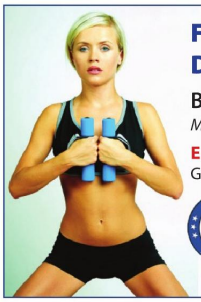

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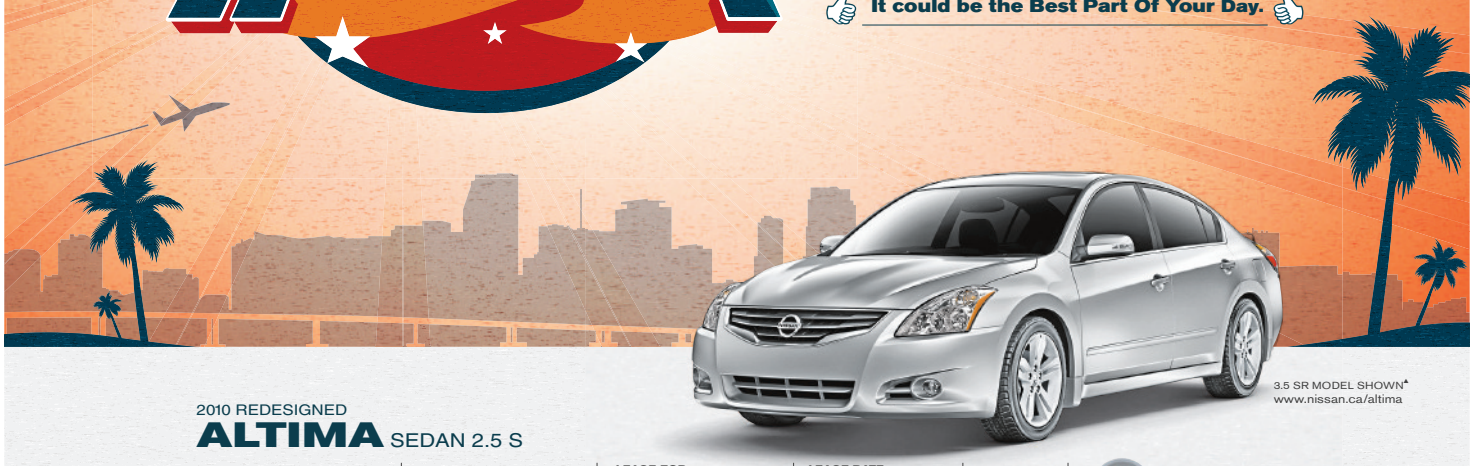

3.5 SR MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/altima

2010 REDESIGNED ALTIMA SEDAN 2.5 S

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$26,498†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$319†** PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **2.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$3,550 DOWN PAYMENT
$18,848 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

"HIGHEST RANKED MIDSIZE CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY IN THE U.S." - J.D. POWER AND ASSOCIATES[1]

Nissan Intelligent Key® with Push Button Ignition • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) • Power windows and door locks

City: 8.7L/100km (32 MPG)
Highway: 6.0L/100km (47 MPG)▲▲

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

SL AWD MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/rogue

2010 ROGUE FWD S

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

2009 REGIONAL VALUE AWARD

★★★★★ 5-STAR RATING FOR SIDE-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY[4]

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$26,198†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$309†** PER MONTH | FOR **36** MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **1.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$3,700 DOWN PAYMENT
$14,840 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

Standard Xtronic CVT® • Standard ABS, Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), and Traction Control System (TCS) • Power windows and door locks
Winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award[2] • 2009 Rogue is Winner of ALG Residual Value Award - CUV Segment[3]

City: 9.2L/100km (31 MPG)
Highway: 7.3L/100km (39 MPG)▲▲

2010 REDESIGNED SENTRA 2.0

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 36 MONTHS‡

$16,523†† SELLING PRICE

LEASE FOR **$199†** PER MONTH FOR 60 MONTHS
Includes Freight and PDE

LEASE RATE **4.9%**
$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT
$1,950 DOWN PAYMENT
$13,905 TOTAL LEASE OBLIGATION

★★★★★ 5-STAR RATING FOR FRONT-IMPACT CRASH SAFETY[4]

Standard ABS and Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) • Power door locks • Nissan Advanced Airbag System with 6 airbags

City: 8.4L/100km (34 MPG)
Highway: 6.4L/100km (44 MPG)▲▲

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS

2.0 SL MODEL SHOWN▲
www.nissan.ca/sentra

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*90 days no payments program applies only to purchase finance offers on new 2009 and 2010 Nissan models (except 2009/2010 Altima Hybrid, GT-R, 350Z Roadster and Coupe and 370Z™ Roadster and Coupe) purchased and delivered before January 4th, 2010. Offers available only through Nissan Canada Finance on approved credit. Offer only available on special low rate contracts, and does not apply to Nissan Canada Finance standard rate programs. May not be combined with cash purchase offer. Monthly payments deferred for 90 days. Contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charge (if any) will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After the 60 days, interest (if any) starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest (if any) monthly from the 90th day over the term of the contract. Offer available on terms up to 72 months. **No purchase necessary. For full rules and how to enter, visit www.nissan.ca/holidaykickoff. Contest closes January 10, 2010. Three (3) Grand Prizes available to be won, each consisting of a trip for two (2) people to 2010 Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV in South Florida. Approximate retail value of each Grand Prize is $10,000.00 (CDN). Random draw will be held on January 12, 2010 in Mississauga, ON. Must be a resident of Canada (excluding Québec), over age of majority. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Correct answer to mathematical skill testing question required. Limit of one (1) entry per person/household. (c) 2009 NFL Ventures L.P. Team names/logos are trademarks of the teams indicated. All other NFL-related trademarks are trademarks of the National Football League. ‡0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on 2010 Altima Sedan (excluding Hybrid), Sentra and Rogue models. Finance Example for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00): $26,498 Selling Price including ($1,400) freight and PDE, financed at 0% APR for 36 months equals $597.17 per month with $5,000 down payment or equivalent trade-in. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $26,498. Up to $84 PPSA, license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. Finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. †Lease Examples: $26,498/$26,198/$16,523 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00)/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00)/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00) at 2.9%/1.9%/4.9% lease rate for a 48/36/60 month term. Monthly payment is $319/$309/$199 including ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) freight and PDE, with $3,550/$3,700/$1,950 down payment, and $0/$0/$0 security deposit. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $18,848/$14,840/$13,905. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. ††Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00), CVT transmission/2010 Rogue FWD S (W6RG10 AA00), CVT transmission/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲Models shown $33,298 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (T4SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$30,798 Selling Price for a new 2010 Rogue SL AWD (Y6SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$24,423 Selling Price for a new 2010 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG10 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]The Nissan Altima received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. [2]The 2010 Rogue is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. [3]The 2009 Rogue is winner of ALG Residual Value Award - CUV Segment. [4]Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. Please see www.safercar.gov for up to date information. ▪For a limited time receive up to $1,000 Grad discount available on select models when leasing or financing a new 2009 or 2010 Nissan. See retailer for complete Grad program details.

The best ski resorts for non-skiers

Skiers want nothing but to be on the slopes this time of year. But what if they bring friends or family along who don't ski? Shermans Travel has come up with a list of 10 of the best ski resorts in the world for non-skiers. Check it out at shermansttravel.com. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

In less than a New York minute

The Best of New York In Just 10 Seconds is a select guide to the best places to stay, eat, shop and explore in Manhattan. The guide offers tips on how to uncovers local treasures, or to plan the perfect, well-rounded vacation. The guide is available online at just10seconds.com and will be available as an iPhone and Blackberry application in early 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Cruising into the Central American past

Far from the movie 2012, ancient Mayan culture comes alive at Altun Ha's sacrificial temple

JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN
for Metro Canada

JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN/FOR METRO CANADA

Returning from Belize, the Norwegian Pearl stops for the day at its private beach in the Bahamas.

JOHN AND SANDRA NOWLAN/FOR METRO CANADA

The Mayan guide speaks to visitors at Altun Ha's major temple.

It's hard to compete with Bingo. Especially on a cruise ship.

For us, illustrated lectures about upcoming countries and ports are just as important as evening entertainment and fine dining. But on a recent cruise to Central America the always popular Bingo games seemed to coincide with the fascinating lectures by Jim Forrester, an historian from Hamilton, Ont.

Forrester just shrugged his shoulders and said, "That's life," as he enthusiastically presented his illustrated talks about Central America to the couple of dozen guests who appreciated his knowledge of the history and geography of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize.

We chose the Norwegian Pearl for the cruise out of Miami mainly because its itinerary was not the usual Caribbean circuit of tropical islands with endless jewelry stores and souvenir shops. Professor Forrester was particularly enthusiastic about our stop at Belize City, the largest community in the country formerly known as British Honduras. Belize is the only English speaking country in Central or South America.

"The British took over a coastal pirate hideout in the mid-1600s," Forrester said. "They used the town as a base to send mahogany and other precious wood overseas and it grew into a major port. Compared with Honduras, the country is quite prosperous and children are well fed and well educated. "

Many cruise ship passengers joined us for a 50 kilometre bus ride to the remarkable ruins at Altun Ha. Altun Ha became famous in 1968 when Canadian archaeologist Dr. David Pendergast discovered a jaede head in a tomb. Now known to represent the Mayan Sun God, the jade head is valued at $60 million and is locked in a bank vault in Belize City. Our guide, Ken, who takes pride in being 90 per cent Mayan, told us that the Jade Head will likely never be displayed for the public. "Officials are terrified it will be stolen," he said. "Only VIPs have seen it."

Still, at Altun Ha, there is a lot to be seen as excavation continues around a plaza and thirteen remarkable structures have been unearthed, the tallest of which is the 20 metre Temple of Masonry Altar. A steep, single staircase leads to the top of the alter where major religious ceremonies took place.

"In all Mayan communities, the higher the building the closer you are to the gods," Ken told us. "But this site is unique. There is evidence of animal sacrifice here but none that shows human sacrifice. Maybe people were happy and felt no need to sacrifice humans. We just don't know."

Back on the Norwegian Pearl, Hotel Manager, Dallas Easterley, gives much of the credit for the line's cruise to Executive Chef Neil Allem of Toronto.

Norwegian Cruise Line generally attracts middle class families or those on a modest budget. But it compares very favourably with the higher end lines. We were impressed not only by the Central America itinerary but by the attention to detail on the ship. We're just not sure about the Bingo.

*Advance purchase required. For details, please visit greyhound.ca or call 1-800-661-TRIP. New bus design shown here is currently only available on select routes. Restrictions may apply. © 2009 Greyhound Canada Transportation ULC.

Potter's magic coming to Canada

SCIENCE This spring, Harry Potter fans across Canada will have the chance to step inside the famous wizard's magical world when Harry Potter: The Exhibition opens at the Ontario Science Centre, its first venue outside the United States, on April 9.

Visitors will experience dramatic environments inspired by the Harry Potter film sets and see the amazing craftsmanship behind more than 200 authentic costumes and film props.

The exhibition will also include costumes and props from the upcoming installments of the Harry Potter film series, once production of these films has been completed.

Tickets are now available online at OntarioScienceCentre.ca.

The exhibition is currently on display at the Museum of Science, Boston.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bars close early
Unlike New York, Philly definitely sleeps. Bars close at 2 a.m., and last call is usually an hour before that. There are some after-hours clubs, but do yourself a favour and just wait for brunch's Bloody Marys. METRO WORLD NEWS

Not just cheese steaks

Philadelphia's world-class galleries and shopping can be done cheap

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

For travelers on a budget, Philadelphia's nitty gritty tendencies can come in handy. No, the city isn't as posh as northern neighbor New York and has no beaches to boast of, but Philly's working class sensibilities means no one will sniff when you pull out a coupon.

METRO WORLD NEWS
Mosaic murals cover the walls in the Magic Gardens.

Art and Culture

There are plenty of museums and galleries here that are worth every penny — the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Mutter Museum, to just scratch the surface — but if you're in town on a first Friday, the city's historic Old City district hosts a completely free open gallery night.

Dining

A Philly soft pretzel will only set you back pocket change, but plenty of the city's fine dining mainstays are offering affordable menus these days. Even if you don't land here on a Restaurant Week (during which neighborhoods offer pre-fixe meals) you'll find good food for cheap.

Shopping

While Old City and Center City host most of Philadelphia's upscale boutiques, the quirky South Street shopping district throws in some priceless people watching opportunities. Also, be sure to check out the mosaic murals of local artists Isaiah Zagar while you walk through — tours are available for a small fee if you want to see more of the Magic Gardens.

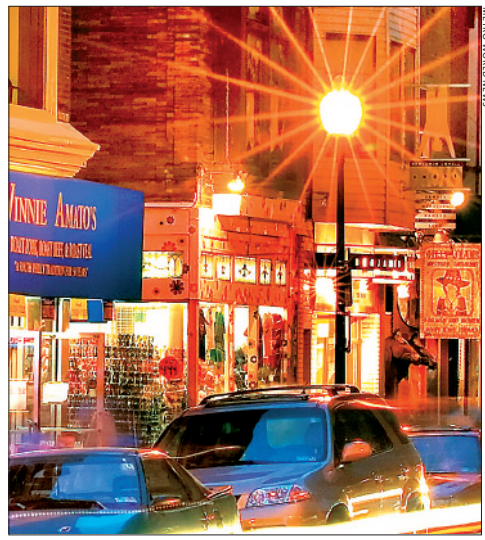
METRO WORLD NEWS
Philadelphia's Liberty Bell.

Top 3 for free

1 **Arts:** The Philadelphia Museum of Art is an unbelievable work of architecture that hosts a gigantic and first-class collection. It's free on the first Sunday of any month.

2 **History:** Here's the thing about the Liberty Bell: It's basically just a bell with a big crack in it. It is, however, free and open to the public every day and Philly likes it.

3 **Culture:** You can rack up a big bill on cheeses and chocolates in the Italian Market, but a walk through is almost as much fun. Between the sights, smells, and rambunctious Eagles fans, it's a priceless tour.



METRO WORLD NEWS
Philly's downtown nightlife has seen a revival in recent years.

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Jersey Shore nothing like MTV's show

TRAVEL It's not summertime and it's nothing like the MTV reality show.

But the Jersey Shore does offer plenty to do for visitors this time of year: Main Street shopping, outlet malls and holiday activities.

Jersey Shore Premium Outlets in Tinton Falls and Jackson Premium Outlets in Jackson both have bus departures from Manhattan's Port Authority and NJ Transit stops. For Main Street shopping, check out Cookman Avenue in Asbury Park and the downtowns of Ocean Grove, Toms River, Spring Lake, and Red Bank. For antiques, hit Point Pleasant Beach for the Antique Emporium, Fond Memories Antiques and Canvas House Antiques.

To make a weekend out of it, boutique hotels include Blue Bay Inn in Atlantic Highlands, the Victorian style Majestic B&B in Ocean Grove, and the Oyster Point and Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank. The outlet malls also have shop and stay deals with over two dozen area hotels; details at premiumoutlets.com.

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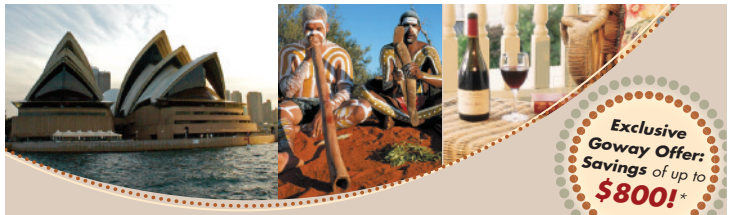
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Blunt instrument

Emily Blunt is learning to play the ukulele. The actress — who stars as Princess of Lilliputia in new movie Gulliver's Travels — has taken up the guitar-like instrument after seeing co-stars Jack Black and Billy Connolly play it on set. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Back to The Hills

Audrina Patridge has officially signed on to star in the next season of The Hills. After weeks of negotiations, she will return to the show that made her famous.

USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Kristen Wiig to host SNL Christmas

Wiig

TV Kristen Wiig's recurring character Gilly might not seemed filled with holiday cheer, yet NBC is turning to her to host a Saturday Night Live Christmas special.

SNL Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas will air Dec. 17. The two-hour special, will be led by Wiig's Gilly, an ever-smiling Annie-lookalike who delights in violent mischief.

The special will feature new sketches with Gilly and highlights of classic holiday SNL sketches.

Wiig, roundly considered a standout performer on the NBC sketch comedy show, has built Gilly into a popular character.

Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin will also make guest appearances on the special to help introduce clips they've appeared in as hosts, including Baldwin in NPR's Delicious Dish and the Schweddy Balls and Martin in A Holiday Wish.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Film legend comes to life

Me And Orson Wells depicts director at the peak of his creative power

Movie **feature**

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Richard Linklater is an unpredictable director who has created a variety of very different films over his 18-year career; ranging from the psychedelic philosophy essay Waking Life, to the melancholic high school comedy Dazed And Confused and the family-friendly Jack Black vehicle School Of Rock.

"Like any person I'm interested in a lot of things and I try not to limit myself as a filmmaker," Linklater told Metro.

"If I'm interested in something, I'm always looking for a way to try and express it on film. That's kind of the prism that I see life through."

His latest movie, Me and Orson Welles, is the story of a young boy who stumbles into Orson Welles' famous 1937 production of Julius Caesar and gets a crash course on life and theater from the larger than life personality.

For Linklater it was a chance to explore Orson Welles without being dragged down by the conventions of a biopic.

British actor Christian McKay and teen heartthrob Zac Efron star in Me and Orson Wells.

"The biopic is a lame genre and hard to pull off," said Linklater. "Orson Welles is just too big to contain in a single film and it would be foolish to try. I felt more confident about biting off a small piece and focusing on one week in his life in 1937."

By focusing on this period, Linklater was able to depict Welles at the peak of his creative power and success, while hinting at the flaws that would lead to his eventual downfall.

"You can look at this movie and you can see the genius, but you can also see the seeds of destruction," said Linklater. "The full labyrinth that was Orson Welles is on display and you can project onto it anything you want"

It's a surprisingly complex portrait of Welles and one that required an immensely talented actor to take on the challenging role. Fortunately Linklater was able to find the previously unknown British actor Christian McKay, who captures Welles better than any actor has before.

Me And Orson Welles is in theatres on Friday

"From here on it's sort of scorched Earth," quipped Linklater. "You'd be crazy to play Orson after Christian McKay because who could ever combine not only the physical resemblance, but the verve and depth that he brings to it. It felt like a gift from the film gods that we were able to find him."

Linklater lucked out with McKay and was also able to land teenie bopper favorite Zac Efron to lend the movie a star name as the innocent young protagonist who is burned and inspired by Welles. The result is, typically for Linklater, unlike anything he's done before, while still retaining the intelligence and character-driven storytelling that defines his best work.

It's the kind of film that he hopes to be able to continue to make in an uncertain film industry, "It's a crazy time and the middle ground of filmmaking between mainstream Hollywood movies and no budget indie films that I occupy has shifted," revealed Linklater. "A lot of opportunities have gone away and I'm lucky that I got this made at all."

CBS cancels As the World Turns

TV CBS cancelled As the World Turns yesterday, putting the company that coined the phrase "soap opera"' out of the business of making daytime dramas for the first time in 76 years.

As the World Turns has been on the air since 1956 and televised its 13,661st episode yesterday. Its last episode will be next September, the network said.

It's the second daytime drama CBS has cancelled in a year, after Guiding Light. Both shows were produced by a subsidiary of Procter&Gamble, the company for which the term "soap opera" was created.

Daytime dramas have been fading as a genre for years, with more women joining the work force and the increased number of channels offering alternatives like news, talk, reality and game shows. In tough economic times, paying casts, producers and writers proved prohibitive to networks when there were cheaper alternatives.

The cancellation will leave CBS with only two daytime dramas: The Young and the Restless and The Bold and Beautiful.

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Leona's private concert
Leona Lewis was reportedly paid $150,000 US for a private concert. The singer was flown by private jet to Monte Carlo. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Hollywood the grinch?

Fewer festive films and less audience appeal in recent years

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

If Robert Zemeckis can't save the Christmas film, who can?

The director of 2004's holiday hit The Polar Express, which went on to make $180 million worldwide, is having a hard time pushing his new high-tech adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The film, which cost $200 million US to make, only took in $30 million its opening weekend, disappointing Disney's expectations (by comparison, Universal's 2000 release The Grinch, also voiced by Jim Carrey, took in more than $260 million worldwide).

And it's not like viewers are going to see other festive films; the only other holiday-themed movie being released this season is Everybody's Fine. So what gives? Where is this year's Four Christmases?

"Over the last couple of years, Hollywood has not seen 'This is Christmas'-type movies win over audiences. And once failure is evident, the knee-jerk is to go another way," says Richard Laermer, author of 2011: Trendspotting for the Next Decade. (Remember Fred Claus? Yeah, neither do we).

So it seems like the studios are launching the blockbusters instead — films such as 2012, Avatar and The Princess and the Frog — this Christmas season to keep audiences happy.

And as it turns out, the studios haven't lost their holiday spirit — they're just focusing on a different one. "There is a dearth of holiday films in 2009 because the big trend is the 'group star movie,' thanks to the ridiculous success of He's Just Not That Into You," says Laermer. "All the studio eggs are in films like next year's Valentine's Day, which stars one type of actor for each segment — everyone from the two Taylors (Lautner and Swift), Ashton (Kutcher), Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway and Shirley MacLaine."

A Christmas Carol took in $30 million its opening weekend, a disappointment when compared to holiday movies of years past.

Xmas cash

A movie for each of the 12 days of Christmas, and their box office take, according to Box Office Mojo.

1. Home Alone (1990): $285,761,243
2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000): $260,044,825
3. The Polar Express (2004): $180,806,128
4. Elf (2003): $173,398,518
5. The Santa Claus (1994): $144,833,357
6. Four Christmases (2008): $120,146,040
7. Christmas with the Kranks (2004): $73,780,5398
8. Fred Claus (2007): $72,006,777
9. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989): $71,319,526
10. Jingle All the Way (1996): $60,592,389
11. Bad Santa (2003): $60,060,328
12. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993): $50,003,043

DOROTHY ROBINSON

In brief

PEOPLE Elton John's partner says the musician was devastated that he wasn't allowed to adopt an HIV-positive Ukrainian toddler, but plans to support the boy anyway. The 62-year-old pop star met 14-month-old Lev at a home for HIV-positive children in September. But he was refused permission to adopt the boy because he was too old and not married.

MUSIC A former manager of The Fray says the band owes his company more than $750,000 in commission and expenses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den Winter hat. (N)		Greg Frewin Magic Man		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	So You Think You Can Dance		Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "Death House" (N)		News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Practice (CC)		Third Watch "Blackout" (CC)		Perspectives	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones "The Goop on the Girl"		Glee "Sectionals" (N) (CC)		Fascinating People		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Old Christine	The Middle	Austin Powers in Goldmember ★★ (2002) Mike Myers. (CC)				A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Mercy (N) (CC)		Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		Victoria's Secret Fashion		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "Death House" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Mercy (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Me and Luke (2006) Kristopher Turner, Louise Fletcher.				He Sees You When You're Sleeping (2002)		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Shrek/Halls	The Middle	Family	Cougar Town	Fascinating People		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	28 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Intern ★ (2000, Comedy) Dominique Swain, Ben Pullen.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Rick Steves' European Christmas (CC)				Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Symphony
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance		Glee "Sectionals" (N) (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Jerusalem: Center-World		Detroit -The Jewish Community			Jerusalem: Center of the World (CC)			UltraMind
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Bosley Hair	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl "The Debarted"		Victoria's Secret Fashion		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity results. (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	Planet Earth (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Planet Earth (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	World Sport	UEFA Champions League Soccer Teams TBA.					Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) Curling 2009 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings. (Live)					SportsCentre	Over the Bolts	Salt Lake	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	Basketball	Court Surfing	Score Now		Score Now		Drafted Finale		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán		Ftbl Today	Football	Gol TV News	Foot Brazil	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	A Flintstone Christmas (CC)		Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	The Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Arctic Mission Arctic culture.		Mao: A Chinese Tale (CC)		Sacred Music (CC)		Sacred Music (CC)		Bethune
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Vault" (CC)		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	24 MM	Jonas	disBAND	MuchTop11at11		Pimp My Ride	My Own	Love Court	Jonas	The Wedge
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Unsellable	Intervention	Property	Unsellable	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Steven Seagal
	628	584	32 SPKE	Ways to Die	MANswers (N)	MANswers	Ways to Die	Scariest Police Shootouts!		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	34 TLC	Pregnant	I Didn't Know	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Dress	Dress	Pregnant	I Didn't Know	Little Couple
	616	522	39 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		The Guard "Just Say No"		Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Bones "Yanks in the U.K."		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar "All In" (CC)		Law & Order "Apocrypha"		Without a Trace (CC)		White Collar "All In" (CC)		Entourage
	601	562	41 SLC	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Brat Camp (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Flight 574 - Lost"		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Flight 574 - Lost"		Mighty Ships "U.S.S. Nimitz"		Mega Builders
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Pilots NWT "A Big Deal"		Life After People (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Pilots NWT "A Big Deal"		Outlaw Bikers
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural (CC)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Cathexis"	
	294	650	47 TBS	House/Payne	Meet, Browns	Lopez Tonight (N)		Men of a Certain Age "Pilot"		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	King	King	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	What	Family Guy	King	King
	603	561	52 FN	Chopped (N) (CC)		Unwrapped Holiday favorites.		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Chopped (CC)		Diner, Drive-In
	-	-	53 AMC	The Hunt for Red October		The Package ★★★ (1989, Suspense) Gene Hackman, Joanna Cassidy. (CC)					In the Line of Fire ★★★	
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	RENO 911! (N)	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Breakfast With Scot		Doubt ★★★ (2008, Drama) Meryl Streep.			(:45) Reservation Road ★★ (2007, Drama) Joaquin Phoenix.			
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	Sex News	Teen Mom "Looking for Love"		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Christmas-Willow Creek		Christmas Together		Christmas Comes to Willow Creek ★★ (1987) Tom Wopat				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics' corner

Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
Following the deaths of three children, Fin (Ice-T) realizes they were all "anchor babies" of immigrant families, and he reaches out to the Center of Immigrant Services, which has been inundated with hate mail fanned by a talk show host who hates foreigners. It isn't long before he witnesses a fight between immigration lawyer Randall Carver (guest star John Larroquette) and a fan (guest star Thomas Sadoski) of the talk show host in "Anchor." 9 PM on NBC

Mercy
Veronica (Taylor Schilling) tries to get help for her PTSD by attending a veterans support group. Sonia (Jaime Lee Kirchner) helps a mother struggling with her decision to give her baby up for adoption. Chloe (Michelle Trachtenberg) gets stuck with a difficult patient: Dr. Harris (James LeGros), who has suffered a bizarre injury. Jason Ritter guest stars in the new episode "Some of Us Have Been to the Desert." 8 PM on CITY

From Breakfast Club cutie to convicted killer

Anthony Michael Hall returns to primetime as a killer in a guest spot on CBS' CSI: Miami, people.com reports. In the episode airing next year, Hall will play a charismatic former emergency room doctor who is now a convicted murderer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Rihanna dreams of the silver screen

SONGSTRESS TO ACTRESS Rihanna has revealed she has a naughty streak and gets a thrill from trying new things. "I'm a bad girl and I like dangerous stuff." The 21-year-old beauty is keen to transfer her love of danger onto the big screen. Earlier in the year, the hitmaker had a string of meetings with film bosses and was believed to be in line to star in a remake of The Bodyguard.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cyrus bares belly in front of the Queen

HELLO YOUR HIGHNESS, MEET MY BELLY BUTTON Miley Cyrus was anything but reserved when meeting the Queen at Monday's Royal Variety Awards in London, usmagazine.com reports. Cyrus, 17, sported tiny leather hotpants and a crop top while performing at the star-studded event.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mirren doesn't mind being naked

DISROBING FOR DRAMA Helen Mirren admits she's much more comfortable going without clothes onscreen. "It's more to do with the role." says the 64-year-old actress, according to Showbiz Spy.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Thurman is manless again

BREAKUP BLUES Uma Thurman is single again, people.com reports. The actress broke off her year-long engagement to Swiss multimillionaire Arpad (Arki) Busson on Nov. 15. "The engagement ended awhile back — almost two months ago," says a source. "They remain friends."

The couple began dating in the summer of 2007, and one year later, Busson proposed with an eight-plus carat engagement ring.

Just don't expect to see that ring on Thurman's finger anytime soon. "She will probably give it back," says the source.

"She wants to return everything that is his."

Perhaps their long-distance love affair was a factor. In September, Thurman, 39, admitted she wasn't planning to marry her London-based fiancé anytime soon.

"I'm happily engaged but we haven't set a wedding up," she told W magazine.

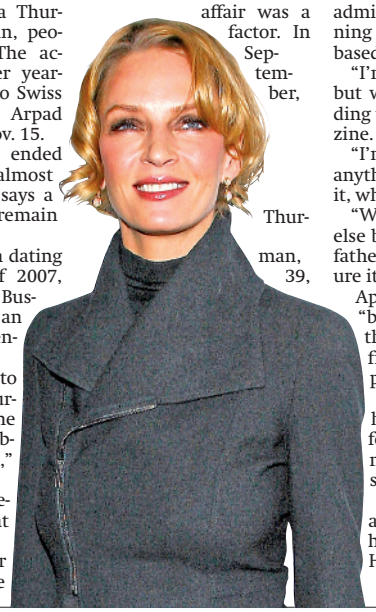
"I'm not in a rush to do anything. One day we'll do it, when we're ready.

"We can't live anywhere else because my children's father lives here. We'll figure it out."

Apparently, Busson is "beside himself" that they weren't able to figure things out, people.com adds.

The businessman has two sons with his former flame, supermodel Elle MacPherson.

Thurman has a son and daughter with ex-husband Ethan Hawke.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spellings kiss and make up

IT'S ALL FOR THE CHILDREN After years of feuding, Tori Spelling and her mother Candy Spelling are putting their differences aside for the sake of Tori's kids, people.com reports.

"They have been in communications," Tori's husband Dean McDermott told People. "Candy has seen the kids, which is what this is all about."

Tori, 36, and Candy, 64, have had a long-standing feud since family patriarch Aaron Spelling died two years ago.

Both wrote tell-all books — each taking jabs at each other.

And earlier this year Candy wrote a public letter to Tori in response to the season finale of her reality show Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood.

In the finale, Tori agonizes about inviting Candy to her daughter's first birthday party. (Candy doesn't show.)

Candy accused her daughter of using her grandchildren Liam, 2, and Stella, 1, as "reality-show props."

For now, it appears the ice has melted on their relationship.

As for more details, McDermott says his family is staying mum.

"We are keeping all this private like it should be," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Brangelina not adopting for now

SECRET MENTOR While Angelina Jolie's visit to the Middle East with Brad Pitt recently sparked speculation that the power couple was planning to adopt another child, the National Enquire has learned that they were actually visiting seven children Jolie has been secretly supporting for years. "Angelina considers the orphans as her own family. She stays in touch with them and really cares about how they are doing," a source says. "She was giving them advice about life and school."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Musical chairs for the musical stars

IT'S THE SIMPLE PLEASURES Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens hosted a party for the actress's Sucker Punch castmates at Joe Fortes Seafood and Chop House in Vancouver, B.C.

The casually dressed duo picked out platters of food to serve family style and also mingled with all their guests during the four-hour dinner, people.com reports.

"They played musical chairs, going from table to table to speak with all their friends," a source said.

Afterward, the group piled into a stretch limo.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Lady Gaga preps to meet royalty, Penn Jillette knows how to have a good time, Stephen Fry can even make blogging sound classy, and Elisabeth Hasselbeck gets her Twitter hijacked by Adam Lambert.

- @ladygaga Nothin like a whiskey, fish + chips in the UK to prepare for the Queen
- @pennjillette Off to LA for the day. A couple of TV pitches and, in between, we'll try dressing a cow like an elephant. There's no business like it.
- @stephenfry Brekkers time: then I really must get down and concentrate on a blog that I've been meaning to post for simply ages...
- @ehasselbeck Hey this is Adam Lambert!!! Elizabeth is lettin me tweet from her phone!!! Me and Liz! Whaaat? :)

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jay-Z living his own Party Life

DA BIG 4-0 Jay-Z turned 40 in style, with a massive 1920's-themed party in the Dominican Republic featuring synchronized swimmers, fireworks and an impromptu performance by Jay-Z and Alicia Keys, plus a surf-and-turf brunch at his and Beyonce's luxury villa the next day, according to Page Six. "Diddy gave a toast," a source says. "Jay-Z's friends also put together a video saying how much they love him."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Thursday Sunny 0°/ -5°

Friday Variable 0°/ -2°

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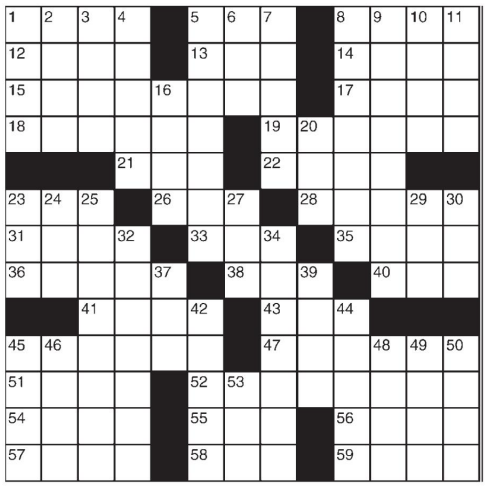
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7						5	
		8				4		
5	2		4	9	1		6	7
	6		7		5		1	
3								5
	4		9		6		7	
7	3		6	5	2		8	4
		1				7		
	8						9	

ACROSS

1 Lecture hall VIP
5 English channel?
8 Showroom sample
12 "The Music Man" locale
13 "Go, team!"
14 "Ars Amatoria" poet
15 From now on
17 Fix
18 It had a big part in the Bible
19 Adheres
21 Not Rep. or Dem.
22 "Critique of Pure Reason" author
23 Raw rock
26 Einstein's birthplace
28 Had the skills
31 Made on a loom
33 Addressee
35 Aforementioned
36 "Psycho" star Janet
38 Choose
40 Say it's okay
41 Stentorian
43 Suture
45 Less of a mess
47 Popular sport fish
51 Big fusses
52 Assess
54 Encounter
55 Melody
56 Young lice
57 Links stats
58 Citi Field player
59 Cavern, poetically

DOWN

1 Lakeside structure
2 Wander
3 As yet unpaid
4 Language of Iran
5 In general terms
6 Tavern
7 Payment method
8 Papa John's rival
9 Ultimately resulting
10 Chinese dynasty
11 Toteboard information
16 Restaurant list
20 Fond du —, Wis.
23 Hooter
24 Fish eggs
25 Villain
27 Cattle call?
29 Recline
30 Banned bug killer
32 The Me Generation?
34 Parvenu
37 Coloration
39 Blue shade
42 Reverie
44 Twisted
45 Pack down
46 Notion
48 Twosome
49 "Beetle Bailey" dog
50 Egg container?
53 Compete

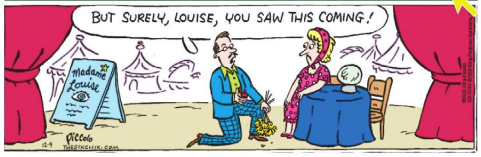
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	A	R	P		A	R	F		D	O	M	E		
O	R	E	O		B	E	E		I	D	E	A		
D	I	S	P	R	O	V	E		S	O	T	S		
S	A	T		E	M	S		S	P	R	A	Y		
			D	E	B		V	I	A					
H	U	M	I	D		W	A	R	R	I	O	R		
I	R	I	S		I	O	N		I	N	D	Y		
S	I	X	P	A	C	K		A	T	S	E	A		
			L	I	E		S	T	Y					
A	C	H	E	D		R	I	O		S	E	W		
F	L	E	A		D	I	S	P	A	T	C	H		
R	O	E	S		O	V	A		C	A	R	E		
O	G	L	E		E	E	L		T	R	U	E		

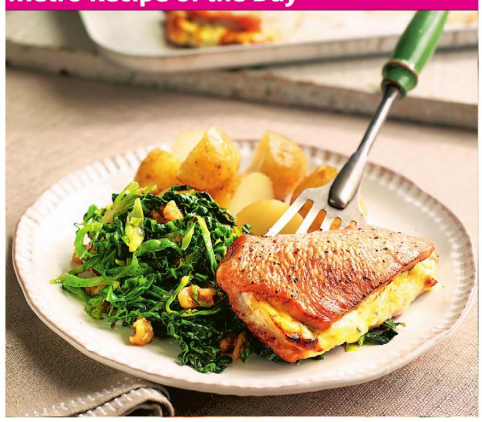
6	8	1	9	3	7	2	4	5
9	2	3	4	8	5	1	7	6
7	5	4	2	1	6	3	8	9
1	6	7	3	4	2	9	5	8
2	4	5	8	6	9	7	3	1
8	3	9	5	7	1	6	2	4
3	9	2	1	5	4	8	6	7
5	1	6	7	2	8	4	9	3
4	7	8	6	9	3	5	1	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Brie Turkey Pockets with Cabbage and Walnuts

INGREDIENTS:

1 oz (30 g) fresh ginger, peeled and grated
1 dessert apple, peeled, cored and grated
4 thick turkey breasts
5 oz (150 g) brie, cut into 4 wedges
3 tbsp (45 mL) olive oil
1 lb (500 g) green cabbage, finely shredded
8 scallions, sliced
1 3/4 oz (50 g) walnuts, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 460°F (240°C). Mix ginger and apple. Cut horizontally through each turkey breast (not all the way through). Divide ginger and apple mixture among pockets, then push wedge of cheese into each. Press meat together into shape and push filling evenly in pockets.

2. Put pockets neatly in one layer in shallow ovenproof dish. Brush with 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and sprinkle with seasoning to taste. Bake until turkey is browned on top and cooked through, and filling is running out in places.

3. Meanwhile, heat remaining oil in large pan and add cabbage, scallions and walnuts. Cook over medium heat, stirring, until cabbage is reduced in volume and lightly cooked. Add seasoning to taste. Transfer pockets to plates. Add some cabbage to each plate and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The Sun in Sagittarius at this time of year will introduce you to new ways of thinking and new ways of making sense of the world..

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
With Venus, your ruler, transiting the wealth area of your chart at the moment you have no choice but to focus on what you earn.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Venus in the partnership area of your chart makes it easy to get along with all kinds of people

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Something unexpected will happen today, something that casts doubts on your long-term ambitions.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
This is one of the best times of the year for you and whatever decisions you take over the next few days they are sure to work out for the best.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You need to be more open with partners and loved ones and relatives. Find the right words to convey your feelings and then just say them.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Even if you are the kind of Libra who tends to be inhibited in social situations you will have a lot of fun today.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Common sense should tell you that your winning streak is going to end sooner or later, so now would be a good time to cash in some of your chips.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your luck is well and truly in at the moment, so take a few risks over the next 24 hours – in fact take as many as you like.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
At this time of year you may have all sorts of dreams and desires, but you must be realistic about them.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Sometimes it can be all too easy to get carried away and start thinking you can do things that are physically impossible.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Do you want to be recognized as you walk down the street? Now is the time to start doing the things that will make it happen.

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$0.99 • Convert currency, length, mass, time and more. Convertbot's simple, intuitive interface makes conversion easy, even handling mixed units, like feet and inches.

It's amazing how much stuff you can do with an iPhone. With all kinds of apps to help with everything from shopping to gaming to cooking to tweeting. In fact, there are over 90,000 apps for just about anything, only on the iPhone.

TELUS | iPhone 3G S

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